



## Four Seats Open on the Organic Advisory Council

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MADISON – A new year brings new openings on the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced that nominations are open for four seats on the Council.

“The Organic Advisory Council is a dynamic, enthusiastic group known for its lively discussions,” said Laura Paine, DATCP’s Grazing and Organic Agriculture Specialist. “I encourage those who want to join the discussion about the future of Wisconsin’s organic industry to apply to serve on the Organic Advisory Council.”

The 12-member Council meets quarterly to guide the development of organic education and marketing opportunities for Wisconsin farms and businesses as well as providing input on state and federal policy that affects organic agriculture.

The four open seats on the Council include: an organic farmer, an organic business, a consumer representative and an ‘at-large’ seat. Members serve a three-year term and are eligible to serve more than one term.

Interested individuals should complete the short two-page application form and provide two letters of support. Materials must be received at DATCP by March 8. Applications may be mailed, emailed or faxed to Laura Paine.

Nominations will be evaluated by a nominating committee and approved by the DATCP Secretary and Agriculture Board. Selected nominees will be seated at the Council’s July meeting.

The Council initially convened in 2007. Wisconsin ranks second in the nation in the number of organic farms and is first in the nation in the number of organic dairy farms.

The application is available online at [http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic\\_Farming/Advisory\\_Council](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic_Farming/Advisory_Council). Paper or electronic copies are also available from DATCP’s Laura Paine at 608-224-5120 or [laura.paine@wi.gov](mailto:laura.paine@wi.gov).

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